

RE-DESCRIPTION OF AN AUSTRALIAN SKINK.

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LYGOSOMA MACCOOEYI, *sp. nov.**

HABIT lacertiform; the distance between the end of the snout and the fore limb is contained once and two-fifths in the distance between the axilla and groin. Snout short, obtusely rounded. Lower eyelid with an undivided transparent disc. Nostril pierced in the nasal; no supra-nasals; † fronto-nasal much broader than long, forming a broad suture with the rostral, and a narrow one with the frontal; prefrontals large, much bent down on the sides; ‡ frontal pentagonal, forming a rounded angle posteriorly, equal in length to or but little shorter than the frontoparietal, and in contact with the two anterior supraoculars; four supraoculars, the second the largest; seven supraciliaries; frontoparietal single, followed by a small interparietal; parietals forming a median suture behind the interparietal; a pair of nuchals and a pair of temporals bordering the parietals; fifth upper labial much the largest, entering the eye. Ear-opening oval, slightly smaller than the transparent palpebral disc, with a single obtuse lobule anteriorly. Thirty-two scales round the middle of the body, the dorsals very indistinctly bi- or tricarinate, the laterals a little smaller than the dorsals or ventrals; preanal scales slightly enlarged. The hind limb when stretched forward reaches the elbow; fingers four, toes five; sub-digital lamellae twenty to twenty three under the fourth toe. Tail one-third longer than the head and body. *Colors*.—Above rich olive-brown, most of the scales from the shoulders to nearly the end of the tail with two or three light-blue longitudinal pencillings which are generally edged with black; these are absent on the sides of the body, but present on those of the tail; in some specimens there are two broad orange lateral bands between the limbs, separated by a blue band; in others a single orange band bordered above and below by blue, while in a third section the orange is

*Since publishing the description of the original specimen in the Proc. Linn. Soc., N.S. Wales, Dec., 1889, several fine specimens have been received, the examination of which necessitates the amplification of that description as here given.

†In one specimen there is a large supra-nasal on one side, which is wanting on the other.

‡In one specimen these shields are in contact with the second upper labial.

entirely wanting, leaving the sides blue; sides of head bluish-brown; labials and chin greyish-white; throat, abdomen, and under surface of tail light greenish-blue, each scale of the hinder two-thirds of the latter with a distinct posterior brown margin, which becomes more accentuated towards the tip; limbs blue, the outer scales broadly brown-edged, and with an occasional orange spot.

			Inches.		Millim.
Total length...	...	...	5.65	...	143
Length of head	...	...	0.52	...	13
Width of head	...	...	0.41	...	9
Body...	...	...	1.88	...	48
Fore limb	...	...	0.67	...	17
Hind limb	...	...	0.91	...	23
Tail ...	...	...	3.25	...	82

The Lizard above described was obtained by Mr. H. J. McCooy at Brawlin near Cootamundra, where it does not appear to be scarce; the Museum is indebted to this gentleman for many interesting and valuable specimens both zoological and ethnological, and we have therefore much pleasure in dedicating this well marked and interesting species to its discoverer.

The species belongs to the small section of Duméril and Bibron's genus *Liolepisma*, which is characterized by the absence of a fifth finger and the conjunction of the fronto-parietals, its nearest ally being apparently *Mococa tetradactyla*, O'Shaughn.; the most obvious distinctions between the two forms, as taken from Mr. Boulenger's description of O'Shaughnessy's species and from that given above are as follows:—In *L. tetradactylum* (1) the head is much larger, both as to length and breadth, in comparison with the body (14 and 10 to 41 against 13 and 9 to 44 mm.); (2) the prefrontals are in contact; (3) the frontal is much shorter than the fronto-parietal; (4) the scales have no trace of carination; (5) the non-enlargement of the preanals; (6) the shorter tail; and (7) the different pattern of coloration. Even, however, should future investigation prove *Lygosoma maccooyi* to be a handsome variety of *L. tetradactylum*, much will have been gained by fixing indisputably the habitat of that species; and should this conclusion be arrived at we have little doubt that *L. pectorale* (*Heteropus pectoralis*, De Vis) will also have to become a synonym of *L. tetradactylum*, but the description is unfortunately so inadequate that it is quite impossible to determine this question without an examination of the original type.
